WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for processing an electronic voting message,
2   said method comprising:
3   receiving the electronic voting message from a client;
4   removing an identity of the client from the message,
5   wherein the removing results in an anonymous
6   message; and
7   identifying one or more votes in the anonymous
8   message.

1   2.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   determining whether the client is authorized to vote,
3   wherein the identifying is performed in response
4   to the determination.

1   3.   The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
2   sending a confirmation message to the client, the
3   confirmation message including a summary of the
4   determination.

1   4.   The method as described in claim 2 wherein the
2   determining further comprises:
3   retrieving the identity of the client; and
4   comparing the identity of the client to one or more
5   authorized identifiers retrieved from a voter
6   data store.

1   5.   The method as described in claim 1 wherein one of the
2   votes includes a freeform comment.

1   6.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   modifying a total number of votes, the modifying
3   further including:

4   adding the one or more votes to the total number

5   of votes.

1   7.   The method as described on claim 6 further comprising:

2   sending the total number of votes to a receiving

3   server, wherein the receiving server is adapted

4   to include the total number of votes with other

5   received votes.

1   8.   The method as described in claim 1 wherein the

2   electronic message is selected from the group

3   consisting of a phone-in message, a private client

4   email message, a public client email message, a

5   hypertext transfer protocol message, a computer

6   network message, an Active X message, and a Java

7   message.

1   9.   An information handling system comprising:

2   one or more processors;

3   a memory accessible by the processors;

4   one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by

5   the processors;

6   an electronic voting message handling tool to manage

7   an electronic voting message stored on one of the

8   nonvolatile storage devices, the electronic

9   voting message handling tool including:

10   means for receiving the electronic voting message from

11   a client;

12   means for removing an identity of the client from the

13   message, wherein the removing results in an

14   anonymous message; and

15   means for identifying one or more votes in the

16   anonymous message.

1   10. The information handling system claim as described in
2   claim 9 further comprising:
3   means for determining whether the client is authorized
4   to vote, wherein the means for identifying is
5   performed in response to the determination.

1   11. The information handling system claim as described in
2   claim 10 further comprising:
3   means for sending a confirmation message to the
4   client, the confirmation message including a
5   summary of the determination.

1   12. The information handling system claim as described in
2   claim 10 wherein the means for determining further
3   comprises:
4   means for retrieving the identity of the client; and
5   means for comparing the identity of the client to one
6   or more authorized identifiers retrieved from a
7   voter data store.

1   13. The information handling system claim as described in
2   claim 9 wherein one of the votes includes a freeform
3   comment.

1   14. The information system handling claim as described in
2   claim 9 further comprising:
3   means for modifying a total number of votes, the means
4   for modifying further including:
5   means for adding the one or more votes to the
6   total number of votes.

1   15. The information system handling claim as described in
2   claim 14 further comprising:

3   means for sending the total number of votes to a

4   receiving server, wherein the receiving server is

5   adapted to include the total number of votes with

6   other received votes.

1 16. The information system handling claim as described in

2   claim 9 wherein the electronic message is selected

3   from the group consisting of a phone-in message, a

4   private client email message, a public client email

5   message, a hypertext transfer protocol message, a

6   computer network message, an Active X message, and a

7   Java message.

1 17. A computer program product stored in a computer

2   operable media for managing an electronic voting

3   message, said computer program product comprising:

4   means for receiving the electronic voting message from

5   a client;

6   means for removing an identity of the client from the

7   message, wherein the removing results in an

8   anonymous message; and

9   means for identifying one or more votes in the

10   anonymous message.

1 18. The computer program product as described in claim 17

2   further comprising:

3   means for determining whether the client is authorized

4   to vote, wherein the means for identifying is

5   performed in response to the determination.

1 19. The computer program product as described in claim 18

2   further comprising:

3   means for sending a confirmation message to the
4   client, the confirmation message including a
5   summary of the determination.

1 20. The computer program product as described in claim 18
2   wherein the means for determining further comprises:
3   means for retrieving the identity of the client; and
4   means for comparing the identity of the client to one
5   or more authorized identifiers retrieved from a
6   voter data store.

1 21. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2   wherein one of the votes includes a freeform comment.

1 22. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2   further comprising:
3   means for modifying a total number of votes, the means
4   for modifying further including:
5   means for adding the one or more votes to the
6   total number of votes.

1 23. The computer program product as described in claim 22
2   further comprising:
3   means for sending the total number of votes to a
4   receiving server, wherein the receiving server is
5   adapted to include the total number of votes with
6   other received votes.

1 24. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2   wherein the electronic message is selected from the
3   group consisting of a phone-in message, a private
4   client email message, a public client email message, a
5   hypertext transfer protocol message, a computer

6   network message, an Active X message, and a Java

7   message.

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